

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5564

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: AR, OAS, PFOR

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF DIRGEN OF POLICY ON ARGENTINE FOREIGN POLICY

1. SUMMARY: IN THE COURSE OF A COURTESY VISIT JULY 30 BY DCM AND POL COUN ON AMBASSADOR FRANCISCO MOLINA SALAS, NEW AD-INTERIM DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICY AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE, THE LATTER SPOKE AT LENGTH ON ARGENTINE FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL AND THE OAS. END SUMMARY

2. AMBASSADOR MOLINA SALAS SAID THAT ARGENTINE FOREIGN POLICY TODAY IS CORRECTLY DEFINED AS "NON-ALIGNED", BUT HE SAID THAT THAT TERM NEEDED EXPLANATION. HE STRESSED THAT BY NON-ALIGNMENT THE GOA MEANT THAT IT DESIRED NORMAL, FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES. HE REITERATED THAT ITS NEW POLICY WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANYONE, AND THAT IT WAS ADOPTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE REDUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL FRICTIONS EVIDENCED IN THE CURRENT WORLDWIDE DETENTE AMONG NATIONS. IT CERTAINLY DOES NOT MEAN THAT ARGENTINA IS IN ANY WAY ABANDONING ITS FORMER FRIENDS AND ALIGNING ITSELF WITH THE OPPOSING BLOCK AS SOME HAVE SUGGESTED. WITH A SLY TWINKLE, HE SAID THAT IN FACT HE WAS DOING TO HAVE TO BE VERY SEVERE WITH HIMSELF TO ENSURE THAT ARGENTINE FOREIGN POLICY IS THUS NONALIGNED IN THE SENSE DESCRIBED, IMPYING VERY
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BROADLY THAT HIW OWN PERSONAL PREFERENCES WERE INCLINED TOWARD

THE US AND THE WESTERN BLOCK.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE OAS, AMBASSADOR MOLINA SALAS SAID THAT THE GOA AGREED THAT THE OAS INDEED NEEDS TO BE BROUGHT UP-TO-DATE WITH THE CHANGING WORLD AND THE CHANGING COMPOSITION OF ITS MEMBERSHIP. HE MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT APPROVE OF THE SPEECH MADE BY THEN UNDERSECRETARY VAZQUEZ AT LIMA, AND SAID THAT WITHDRAWAL OR EXCLUSION OF THE US FROM THE OAS WOULD OBVIOUSLY MEAN THE END OF THAT ORGANIZATION AS SUCH. MOLINA FAVORS CHANGES THAT WOULD MAKE THE OAS A MORE OPEN AND FLEXIBLE ORGANIZATION. HE SAID THAT ARGENTINA WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE SEPTEMBER TALKS IN WASHINGTON ON REFORM OF THE OAS AND WOULD BE SUBMITTING A NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS. THE ENTIRE TENOR OF HIS REMARKS WAS MODERATE AND POSITIVE.

4. AMBASSADOR MOLINA SALAS WAS PRESENT AT THIS YEAR'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS AND SAID THAT THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON THAT OCCASION HAD GREATLY IMPRESSED MOST OF THE LATIN AMERICANS. HE COMMENTED THAT THE COMPLETE FRANKNESS WITH WHICH THE US WAS NOW ADDRESSING THE SUBJECT OF THE OAS WAS HAVING A VERY SALUTARY EFFECT ON LATIN AMERICAN-US RELATIONS.

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